

NATURAL NEWS



The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

March 10, 1995

MUSEUM AFFAIRS NEWS

From Plains, Pueblos & Tundra:

NATIONAL TOUR OF NATIVE AMERICAN MUSIC AND DANCE

Produced by the National Council for the Traditional Arts and co-sponsored with the Museum's Education Department and the Old Town School of Folk Music, this performance will be taking place on Saturday, March 18 at 8:00 p.m. in James Simpson Theatre. Featured performers will be The Cellicion Traditional Zuni Singers from Zuni, New Mexico; renowned Lakota flute player and hoop dancer, Kevin Locke, with singer, Dale Weasel and his daughter from Standing Rock Reservation in South Dakota and Chuna McIntyre; a singer and dancer from Alaska. Acting as master of ceremonies will be well-known Cherokee storyteller, Gayle Ross. Field Museum staff will be offered a special rate for this performance of \$9. Guest tickets are \$18; \$16 for members of the Field Museum or the Old Town School of Folk Music; and \$14 for students and seniors. Please stop by **Paul Adams'** desk in the Education Department during the day to purchase your ticket(s) or call ext. 575 for more information.

John Flynn presents:

MONKEY SKULL DISPLAYED

You've all heard about John Flynn's monkey skull; now you can see it for yourself. *Chilecebus carrascoensis*, the oldest and most complete fossil skull of a South American monkey ever found, is on display in the Speciation Lab section of **Life Over Time**. The exhibit went up on March 1, a mere eight days after the project was first proposed -- a new world land speed record. The skull will be on display for several months, and eventually be returned to Chile.

We would like to thank all the people who dropped everything to get this exhibit in place: **Pam Gaible, Diane Hanau-Strain, Fred Anderson, Brian Sauve**, and of course **John Flynn**. Thanks also to the folks who supervised, coordinated, and otherwise lent a hand: **Mike Paha, David Layman, Neil Keliher, and Gene Dillenburg**.

Green and Growing...

An Earth Day Celebration

April 1-3, 1995



For staff who are familiar with the past **Green and Growing** fairs that we have hosted, this year's theme will expand on the past urban gardening focus to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Earth Day. We are working again with a number of outside agencies including the Chicago Park District and the City. Ecologically-based performances, demonstrations, hands-on activities and displays by schools and non-profit organizations (including displays by Field Museum scientific staff) are planned for Stanley Field Hall. On Saturday afternoon, we will have teacher workshops taking place from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in the classrooms. All the displays and activities in Stanley Field Hall are free with regular Museum admission; there will be a nominal charge and preregistration for the Saturday teacher workshops. We will not be installing the demonstration gardens as we have done in earlier years. The hours for the weekend follow:

Saturday, April 1: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
(Teacher workshops 1:00- 3:00 p.m.)
Sunday, April 2: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Monday, April 3: 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

If you have any questions about the fair, please call **Kristie Webber** (x364), **Joyce Matuszewich**, (x658), or **Miesha Harris** (x399). We anticipate having a green sheet distributed by March 17.

Laura Gilpin: Photographs of the Southwest, a traveling exhibit from the Museum of New Mexico, opens Saturday, March 11 in the South Gallery. It will run through May 8. A limited number of brochures are available through Visitor Services for those who are interested.

The Natural News is edited by **Richard Koontz** and **Carolyn Klyce** in the President's Office. The deadline for all submissions is Tuesday at noon. Printed on recycled paper. ♻️

CENTER FOR EVOLUTIONARY AND ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY



BRUCE PATTERSON PARTICIPATES IN EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY SUPERCOURSE

Bruce Patterson (Zoology) just returned from Seattle where he was an invited lecturer in the University of Washington's "Evolutionary Biology Supercourse." His presentations focused on the relevance of nested subset theory to conservation and coevolution, and on the historical biogeography of South American mammals. Other lecturers in the supercourse included Michael Novacek (American Museum), Rebecca Cann (University of Hawaii), David Hillis (University of Texas), David Wake and James Patton (University of California-Berkeley), Priscilla Tucker (University of Michigan), Robert Zink (Minnesota), and Barbara Block (Stanford).

INGERS RETURN FROM AMPHIBIAN WORKSHOP IN MALAYSIA

Bob and Fui Lian Inger (Amphibians and Reptiles) recently returned from Malaysia where they conducted a workshop on monitoring populations of amphibians. Participating in the workshop were biologists from peninsular Malaysia, the Malaysian parts of Borneo, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines, India, and Australia. Also participating were Zoology Associates Sharon Emerson and Rob Stuebing. This was the first opportunity for most of the Asian biologists to meet colleagues from other Asian countries and to learn what was going on in neighboring regions. Besides reviewing procedures for monitoring frog populations, the group produced seven proposals for research to be conducted in their various home countries.

NOON BALLOON

The first Noon Balloon presentation of 1995 was given by **Dr. Rudiger Bieler**, Associate Curator, Division of Invertebrates Tuesday, March 7, 1995. Rudiger's long term research program is focused on the evolutionary relationships of the Gastropoda, a group comprising more than 100,000 living species and having a very rich and very long geological history, with groups present since the Cambrian. He discussed aspects of molluscan morphology and biology that have contributed to the great difficulties encountered in interpretations of their phylogeny. Rudiger described several specific, ongoing projects to focus on specific questions imbedded in his overall program. Questions of higher group phylogenies are being addressed through collaborative work with Dr. Timothy Collins, University of Michigan, where they have developed an enormous data set comprising morphological and biological attributes with molecular data; preliminary analyses have yielded some exciting hypotheses. Collaborative work with Dr. Alex Ball, N.S.F. sponsored post-doctoral fellow here (previously with the Natural History Museum, London), is to document

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CEEB continued ...

the internal morphology of members of the Mathildidae, a group of very rare taxa of most problematic relationship. A third collaborative effort is underway with **Dr. Paula Mikkelsen**, Associate, Division of Invertebrates to investigate molluscs in the Cephalaspidea. Rudiger also described his field work in the western Australian coastal area of the Houtman and Abrolhos islands during 1994. In addition to finding numerous new taxa, he discovered major new evidence to document unusual modes of reproduction in worm snails. He took particular delight in illustrating the very different shell morphology of several genera of vermetid worm snails, only to present new observations to convince us these differences actually represent the array of responses to different ecological conditions by individuals within the same population.

TABLE BASE AVAILABLE

A sturdy old table base (it has no top) is available in the Fish Division. The dimensions are approximately 7'7" long by 4'9" wide by 2'7" high. If you are interested, call **Kevin** (x428).

CONGRATULATIONS!

AWARDS -- January and February, 1995

To: **John Hall** (Biochemistry) for "Acquisition of Automated DNA Sequencer" from the National Science Foundation for the project period of January 1995 - December 1996.

Amount: \$80,824 (There are no indirect costs included in this award.)

To: **Olivier Rieppel** (Geology) for "The Invasion of Mesozoic Sea: Systematics, Paleobiogeography, and Paleoecology of Stem-Group Sauropterygia" from the National Science Foundation for the project period of February 1995 - January 1997.

Amount: \$120,000 (Direct: \$82,508; Indirect: \$37,492)

To: **Administration** for "General Operating Support - CityArts IV" from the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs for the project period of the year 1995.

Amount: \$12,500 (There are no indirect costs included in this award.)

We extend sympathies to the family of **Clara Aytch-Baker** (Education Department) for the loss of her father, **James E. Bullock, Sr.**, who passed away February 24, 1995.

Our deepest sympathies are also extended to **Marilyn Martinson**, Director of Personnel, whose mother, **Blanche Martinson Wandzell**, passed away on Friday, March 3, 1995 in Minnesota. Wake services were held on Tuesday, March 6, 1995 with funeral services performed the next day. Condolences may be forwarded to the Personnel Office.

WELCOME TO NEW ACCOUNTING MANAGER!

I am pleased to announce the appointment of **Paula Robinson** to be the Museum's Accounting Manager. Paula will begin work at the Museum on Monday, March 13, 1995.

Ms. Robinson comes to the Museum from Hill, Taylor & Company, Certified Public Accountants, where she was a Supervisor Manager. Paula received her formal education in business administration from Roosevelt University.

Paula comes to us very qualified to assume the duties of this important Finance position.

J.W. Croft

Vice President, Finance and Administration

DILLENBURG RETURNS FROM AUSTRALIA

Gene Dillenburg, Coordinator of Special Projects, Exhibits Department, recently returned from a lengthy trip to Australia. During his stay, he visited nearly four dozen museums, zoos, galleries, and other interpretive centers in five state capitals, photographing and video taping the more intriguing exhibits. Dillenburg presented his preliminary findings to an audience of interested staff on Wednesday, March 1.

Despite superficial similarities, there are many differences between Australian and American museums. As is true anywhere, Australian exhibits rely heavily on local collections--fossil exhibits for example feature species rarely seen in American museums. Ecological messages are strong, as Australians are aware of their continent's unique flora and fauna. Most museums, even the science and technology centers, have a very strong cultural component, generally exploring multiculturalism. The major state museums all focus on natural history, but also include social and political history. There are numerous historic sites in the country, but few dedicated history museums. Botanic gardens are prominent.

Art galleries tend to have very few European works, and focus on Australian art and its British antecedents. Aboriginal art is given prominence in museums, galleries, and other venues. The American-style children's museum is virtually unknown, and children's galleries are often little more than watered-down versions of adult exhibits. Maritime museums are extremely popular, as might be expected in an island nation.

Dillenburg plans to develop these and other observations with further research, and present the results in a number of venues: the Chicago Museum Exhibitors' Group; *The Exhibitionist* (official organ of the National Association of Museum Exhibitors, the AAM Committee on Exhibition); and potentially in *Museum News* (the national publication of the American Association of Museums). Staff interested in these projects, or the research behind them, are welcome to call Gene (x636).



MEDICAL INSURANCE PARTICIPANTS

Medical and Prescription Drug identifications cards for the 1995 plan year have all been distributed. If you received a card with a 2/1/94 effective date - IT IS CORRECT. The date reflects the last time there was a change on your contract -- i.e. an address change, a dependent change, or a facility change. There is NO expiration date on the cards. Please see **Jennifer** in Benefits (x526) if you have any questions.



MAY 5 MEMBERS' NIGHT



IMPORTANT REMINDER

The following is due Friday, March 17:

Guidebook copy to Membership Department

Friday, March 17

Signage requests to Graphic Design

Friday, March 17

Photography requests to Photography

Friday, March 17

Special exhibit requests to **Mike Paha**, Exhibits

Friday, March 17

If you have any questions, please call **Mary Millsap** (x219).



COMING LATER THIS MONTH!

... a new era in *paper recycling* at the Field Museum. By the end of March we will be increasing our recycling effort by including many more kinds of paper in our recycling bins. For all the details please come to our

March 24 Recycling Kickoff Meeting

in Montgomery Ward Hall at 10 AM.